(d) BSNL is in the process of incorporating the suggestions given by CAG of India in its report on Planning and Project implementation processes. BSNL has now placed the purchase order to one of the bidders namely M/s. Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd. The advance purchase order placed oh M/s Nokia Siemens Network Pvt. Ltd. is yet to be accepted by them.

Pollution in Ganga and Yamuna rivers

*117. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that Ganga and Yamuna rivers are getting polluted due to waste material thrown by various industries and tourists into these rivers;

(b).whether efforts are being made to save these rivers from pollution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Discharges of effluent from the industries as well as indiscriminate disposal of various forms of wastes at places of mass congregation are among the causes of pollution of rivers Ganga and Yamuna.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c)The efforts taken by the Government for control of industrial pollution include notifying industry specific effluent standards, promoting setting up of effluent treatment plants and environmental surveillance by the Central/State Pollution Control Boards under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Out of 343 grossly polluting industries identified along the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. 83 industries have been closed as a result of concerted efforts of Central and State Pollution Control Boards. For management of municipal solid wastes, the Government has also notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 and its implementation is monitored by. concerned state Pollution Control Boards. Generation of environmental awareness among the masses, construction of community toilets and crematoria are other activities undertaken to control pollution at palces of mass congregation along these rivers.

The Government of India has also undertaken the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I between the years 1985 and 2000 to tackle the pollution from domestic wastewater in the identified polluted stretches of the river. GAP Phase-II was subsequently taken up in 1993 and also includes the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda. So far, a sewage treatment capacity of 1747 mld (million litres per day) has been created for Ganga and its tributaries.

Mining project in Meghalaya

*118. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that India's flagship Look East Policy project, Lafarge Union Limestone Mining Project in Meghalaya, has been finally ordered as closed by Government on the ground that the project has not been cleared by his Ministry; and

(b)the action being contemplated against the assessor (ERMI) which misrepresented the facts in calling the proposed mining area as waste land when it had thick forest ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The mining operations being undertaken by M/s Lafarge